

(b) three out of eight have been commissioned recently and the working results are yet to be finalised. Out of the remaining five, three are making profits and two are losing.

(c) All necessary amenities are being provided.

Central Grant to Union Territories

2598. SHRI P.M. SYEED: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount of Central grant to each of the Union Territories during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there per capita amount of central grant to Lakshadweep is comparatively less than other Union Territories;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any request to increase the per capita amount of Central grant to Lakshadweep; and

(d) If so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (d). The Union Territories except Pondicherry are allocated funds under Plan and Non-Plan on the basis of estimates/schemes projected by the Union Territories and availability of resources with the Union Government. In view of above, sectoral and administrative needs, and not population, is the criteria for allocation of funds to a Union Territory. Entire expenditure in case of Union Territories, except Pondicherry, is met by the Central Government. In case of Pondicherry, the Union Government provides central assistance and loan to meet the deficit in the Budget of

the Government of the Union Territory.

Distribution of Gas to Rural Areas Through Pipelines

2599. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have a network of pipelines for the distribution of the gas to the rural areas in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI. B. SHANKRANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present projections of availability of natural gas do not permit setting up of such a network of pipelines.

Journalists Injured by Police Action

2600. SHRISHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of journalists were injured by police action while demonstrating near the Parliament House on December 24, 1991; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The Delhi Police have reported that on 24.12.1991, the police had resort to use of tear-gas to disperse demon-